

families, businesses, and workers afloat until the country could reopen. And we have done that. Six months into the Biden administration and Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, the country has stabilized.

This morning—this morning—it was reported that in the second quarter, the U.S. economy grew at a rate of 6.5 percent, erasing all of the losses from the COVID pandemic. It happened a lot quicker and a lot sooner than many anticipated.

Let me repeat that because it is great news. Under President Biden and Democratic House and Senate majorities, the economy recovered so fast this year that we have already erased the losses in growth that we experienced as a result of the COVID pandemic. That is very good news.

It certainly doesn't mean every family is back on their feet yet. It certainly doesn't mean our work is complete. But the American economy is back. It is thriving and set for even brighter days ahead.

Again, elections have consequences. There is such a difference between the bumbling, nasty, divisive last 2 years of the Trump administration and a new Democratic majority in the House and the Senate and a Democratic President.

Vaccines are out there, as we promised to get them. There are still some people resisting taking a vaccine. They should. We have had some resistance even from ideological rightwingers, which is just awful. Vaccines are out there.

Money has been pumped into the economy through the ARP, and things are moving forward, but now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Now is the time to press forward to cement these gains and build on them. We must continue encouraging vaccinations. We must keep a very close eye on the Delta variant and take necessary precautions. But we also must address the underlying structural economic conditions that held back the middle class and those trying to get there even before the pandemic.

The American dream—that if you work hard, you will be doing better 10 years from now than you are doing today and your kids will be doing still better than you—was fading for the last 20 years. If you look at the economic statistics, they show that that dimmer view the American people had was accurate in terms of economic circumstances.

But now we need to get bright and sunny again. We need to return to the bright, sunny American optimism that has been so much a part of our character for more than two centuries. And how do we do it? We don't just sit on our hands. We don't just say: Let businesses take care of it. They won't. They have a different mission.

A massive investment in public infrastructure will create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. That is just what the doctor ordered. And we need to go

beyond that to restore that bright, sunny optimism. We need to help American families keep up with the exorbitant costs of childcare, healthcare, housing, college, and more. We need to press on and fight to reverse climate change because, as bad as COVID was, if we do nothing about climate change, a few years from now, each year will be worse than COVID, and each year after that will get worse and worse and worse. If we do nothing, people several years from now—even people now will say: Why didn't we do more? We Democrats want to do more on climate. We must.

The numbers show that the American economy has gotten back to where it was prior to COVID. Now is the time to go further and build back even better than before. We Democrats, when we can in a bipartisan way but on our own when our Republican colleagues are adamantly against us, we will move forward on both tracks—both tracks.

I am proud of my Democratic caucus, every one of them voting yesterday for this bill and all pledging to go forward on the second track as well.

#### CAPITOL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, even during normal times, protecting the U.S. Capitol is a difficult job. Millions of people visit the U.S. Capitol every single year. Five hundred and thirty-five elected officials and their staffs work here every single day. To keep the Capitol Complex safe, to keep it secure, we are lucky to have the best of the best.

Our Capitol Police, who stared down a violent mob on January 6, have been nothing short of heroic—heroic. When the smoke cleared after the attack of January 6, they came back to the Capitol and helped piece together what the rioters had torn apart. In the aftermath of that dark day, the National Guard helped keep watch day and night, 24-7.

I walked the halls of this building early in the morning and saw our National Guard men and women, from New York and so many other States, camped out, helping us, wanting to make sure the Capitol was secure. We owe the Capitol Police and we owe the National Guard our deepest gratitude, but we owe them more than just that. We owe them the resources they need to do a very difficult job and to do it well.

Unfortunately, Congress is on the precipice of failing. Due to unforeseen expenses during the pandemic and the toll incurred by the attack on January 6, funding for our Capitol Police, security at the Capitol Complex, even our National Guard, has come close to running very dry.

Already, the Capitol Police has had to delay vital trainings and the purchase of new safety equipment. Soon, salaries, bonuses, and new hiring will be on the chopping block. According to MG Tom Carden, who sent 1,200 mem-

bers of the Georgia National Guard to the Capitol after January 6, his unit is facing “draconian” cuts if Congress doesn't replenish funding before this weekend. We must not—we must not—let that happen under our watch.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator LEAHY, has been working diligently to come up with a bipartisan agreement. Now, Senator SHELBY has joined with him, and they have crafted a \$2.1 billion supplemental appropriations bill to fill the shortfalls of our Capitol Police, our National Guard, and a number of other vital defense operations. It is not everything that we wanted. The House's bill is bigger and broader. But it does fill the need, and we need to fill it quickly.

I want to thank Senator LEAHY particularly for his relentlessness in pursuing this.

I want to thank Senator SHELBY for realizing how important this was in prodding Members on his side of the aisle to move forward.

I also want to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT, chairmen of the authorization committee, the Rules Committee, that deals with these issues. Senator KLOBUCHAR in particular, whose hearings and continued focus on Capitol security helped pave the way for the agreement, deserves our kudos.

Now is the time for the Senate to take up and pass this bill on behalf of the brave police officers and servicemembers who defended this very citadel of democracy.

All 50 Senate Democrats fully support this crucial police and security funding. All 50 Democrats are ready to go. We are eager, insistent we meet our deadline.

Again, Democrats are prepared to vote on this bill as soon as possible. With the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, which we hope we will get—our needs are dire—we could pass this bill today.

The last 6 months have pushed those who protect the U.S. Capitol to the limits. In the face of unprecedented adversity, they responded heroically. We must support them now as they so courageously supported us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, I joined a number of my Republican and Democratic colleagues